

MINUTES OF THE 3 JUNE 2019
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SCCOG Office, Norwich, CT

Present: Tom Sparkman, Art Shilosky, Michael Passero, Mark Nickerson, Fred Allyn III, Jim Rivers

Staff: James Butler, Kate Rattan

Also Present: John Salomone

Chairman Sparkman opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

1. TAP Grant Applications

The Executive Director reminded the Executive Committee of the process staff used to evaluate the five projects, the schedule that CTDOT had established for submission of the COG's priority; the fact that while \$1.185M is expected to be available to the SCCOG region for the period 2021-2025, CTDOT might only advance one project form each region due to their staffing constraints; the Executive Committee's desire to visit individually the five sites; the COG's tabling of action on this at their last meeting until such time as the Executive Committee had completed their site visits; and the extension of the deadline by CTDOT to September 30. In addition, he reminded in light of this extended deadline, staff had sent an email out to all SCCOG CEOs soliciting additional projects that are located in rural areas (non-urbanized) that could potentially qualify for TAP funds reserved specifically for projects in these areas, if any funds remain after rural COGs apply.

The Executive Committee then discussed the five applications received from Bozrah, Groton Town, New London, Norwich, and Stonington Town.

MOTION: To recommend to the full COG that the SCCOG inform CTDOT that their TAP Grant application priorities are 1) Norwich, New London Turnpike Complete Streets Improvements, \$786,240 requested; \$982,800 total project cost; and 2) New London, Williams Street Complete Street Improvements, \$874,105 requested; \$982,800 total project cost (Shilosky, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

2. Proposed HB 7192/RSG Funding Update

The Executive Director stated that he believed HB 7192, the bill containing the requirement for COGs to have Regional Assessment Divisions, was still alive in the General Assembly; the proposed budget that was expected to be voted on by the legislature today contained \$4.1 M in Regional Service Grant (RSG) funding for COGs in each year of the biennium, a \$500,000 increase per year over current levels.

The Executive Director also reported that last Friday he received word that CTDOT had agreed to provide the full 10% match to federal PL funds, thereby eliminating their demand that the COGs' match increase from 10% to 12%.

3. FY 2019 STIP/TIP Amendments

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG approval of the FY 2019 STIP/TIP amendments (Passero, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

4. K. Blacker Request to Address SCCOG

The Executive Committee considered Mr. Blacker's emailed request to the Executive Director that he be allowed to address the SCCOG regarding State Pier in New London and the CT Port Authority's role in management of the Pier, an issue on which he has publicly stated he is filing a lawsuit. The Executive Committee's consensus was that it would not be appropriate for Mr. Blacker to address the SCCOG on this matter.

5. Long Island Sound Dredge Spoils Disposal Amicus Curiae Brief Update

The Executive Director reported he had received an email from Attorney Casey stating that the Amicus Curiae brief that SCCOG was party to, has been filed. The schedule going forward is: June 28 - NY plaintiffs file their reply briefs to the EPA and DEEP briefs; July 26 - EPA and DEEP file their replies to the NY replies; and July 29 - NY plaintiffs submit all the briefs and moving papers to the judge (by rule in this district, the judge wants all the briefs filed at one time when they are all complete). Attorney Casey said that he then expects the judge will schedule oral argument before issuing a decision. In response to a question by Mr. Passero, the Executive Director said that Attorney Casey has advised that as amici, we do not have an opportunity to participate in oral argument.

6. SCCOG Summer Meeting Schedule

The Executive Committee decided to cancel the August 5th Executive Committee and August 21st SCCOG board meetings.

7. Other

The Executive Director asked Mr. Passero if New London was ready to present their proposal for a new designated Foreign Trade Zone under the Alternative Site Framework provision to the COG at the June meeting, and Mr. Passero responded in the affirmative. This item will be placed under the Executive Committee item on the agenda.

The Executive Committee considered an offer from Eversource to present to the COG energy efficiency opportunities; the Executive Committee asked staff to request that Eversource make this presentation at a special meeting so that municipal staff could attend.

The Executive Director reported that he, Mayor Passero, and Norwich Assessor Donna Ralston would be on a panel after in the week at Assessor's School, presenting on the SCCOG Task Force to analyze the impact that the tax exempt status of non-profits has on municipalities.

Mr. Passero inquired about previous SCCOG efforts to establish a Regional Ethics Commission. The Executive Committee asked that this item be placed on their next agenda for discussion.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director